Legality, Allegations, And Mr Myatt

Since at least 1998 various allegations have been publicly made about David Myatt, a former neo-nazi, with many of those making the allegations of the opinion that Myatt, despite his renunciation since 2010 of all extremism and his development of a mystical philosophy based on virtues of empathy and compassion, {1} should never be, and cannot be, forgiven for past deeds with the accusations including that he promoted hatred and killing.

In legal terms, in terms of Western jurisprudence, what did Myatt (i) do during his years (1968-1998) as a National Socialist activist and ideologue; and (ii) do during his years (1998-2009) as a Muslim and advocate of Jihad, that contravened the laws existing in the United Kingdom at the time?

National Socialist Years

The most common accusations are that during his National Socialist years he (a) directly, or indirectly through the text *A Practical Guide to Aryan Revolution*, inspired David Copeland and (b) through his writings incited racial hatred, and through the text *A Practical Guide to Aryan Revolution* and possibly as part of a conspiracy with others, incited murder.

In early 1998 following pressure from Michael Whine of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and from antifascists such as Gerry Gable, Myatt was arrested at his village home near Malvern by Detectives from SO12 (Special Branch) of Scotland Yard as part of Operation Periphery which had been set up to investigate him in relation to incitement to racial hatred and conspiracy and incitement to murder. The Police spent seven hours searching Myatt's four-bedroom detached home where he lived with his wife and family, and seized and removed his computers and files. Myatt was taken to Malvern Police station and interviewed several times. He was later bailed with one of his bail conditions being to attend further interviews with officers from SO12 at Charing Cross Police station in London.

SO12, in conjunction with British security services and overseas agencies such as the Canadian police, then spent three years trying to find evidence sufficient to bring a criminal prosecution and convict him on such charges. In 1999 following the London nail-bombings and the arrest of Copeland the investigation was widened and included Detectives from the then Anti-Terrorist Branch (SO13) who interviewed Myatt about Copeland.

Despite the three-year long investigation involving multiple law enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom and abroad the Police and forensic teams failed to find evidence sufficient to bring a criminal prosecution, and in the Summer of 2001 Myatt was released from his bail.

Thus the accusations regarding his writings inciting racial hatred,regarding his authorship of *A Practical Guide to Aryan Revolution* and of him directly or indirectly influencing Copeland, and of inciting murder, were found to be without substance.

The subsequent repetition of these accusations by others verbally and in writing, and whatever the motive, therefore amounted to and amounts to rumour mongering. For centuries in the lands of the West, as often elsewhere in the world, the virtue of fairness has been admired with its cultivation in the individual regarded as a necessity for a civilized, cultured, society, based as the virtue was on restrained personal behaviour. {2} The virtue was enshrined in one of the fundamental principles of Western jurisprudence: that the burden of proof is on the person who accuses not on the accused. Hence the fairness of the presumption of innocence until probative evidence proves otherwise.

Muslim Years

Myatt, during his Muslim years and under his Muslim name of Abdul-Aziz ibn Myatt, wrote several tracts supporting the Taliban and martyrdom operations. These included (i) *The Significance of the Taliban for the Muslim Ummah*, dated 8 Rabi' al-Awal 1425, (ii) *In Reply to Sheikh Salman bin Fahd al-Oadah*, dated 16 Ramadan 1428, and (iii) *Are Martyrdom Operations Lawful According to Quran and Sunnah?* dated 16 Jumaada Al-Thaani 1424 with a revised edition published on Yaumul Arbi'a 3 Rajab 1428.

These tracts were all openly published between 1424 AH (2003) and 1428 AH (2007) on Myatt's website and subsequently published by others, with a copy of *The Significance of the Taliban for the Muslim Ummah* found among the possessions of Osama bin Laden after his killing by US Navy Seals in the Abbottabad compound in 2011 and which copy is now in the CIA archives. {3}

Even though Myatt's *Are Martyrdom Operations Lawful According to Quran and Sunnah?* was mentioned at NATO conferences {4} and even though according to Daniel Koehler various articles written by Abdul-Aziz ibn Myatt are "some of the most elaborate and sophisticated justifications for suicide terrorism in the English language," {5} there has been no criminal prosecution of Myatt for authoring such items almost certainly because they are theoretical, theological, tracts and as such do not incite what in many individuals in Western nations would deem to be criminal deeds.

Thus, *In Reply to Sheikh Salman bin Fahd al-Oadah*, Myatt asks the rhetorical question who is innocent and who defines this term, and then proceeds to quote passages from the Quran and Ahadith, writing that "what needs be understood by both Muslims and the peoples of the West is that terms innocent and civilian have no meaning in Shariah."

In *Are Martyrdom Operations Lawful According to Quran and Sunnah?* he makes a distinction between Intihar and

Istishad, again quoting from the Quran and Ahadith, and it may be apposite that his interpretations were not disputed when, for example, he publicly answered questions from Muslims in 2006 on the English-language Islamic Awakening internet forum. {6}

According to one author, in addition to such writings Myatt travelled to several Muslim lands advocating Jihad. {4}

Thus, as with his National Socialist years, the accusation that he as a Muslim "promoted hatred and killing" has no basis in regard to the evidential facts required under due process of law and hence the fairness of the presumption of Myatt's innocency applies.

Conclusion

That the presumption of Myatt's innocency is not accepted by many people, despite the evidence in favour of it, seems to reveal two interesting things. First, that fairness does not seem to be a personal attribute of those who persist in spreading rumours about Myatt; and second, that they either do not uphold a basic principle of Western jurisprudence or are selective when they do uphold it, such as when it may personally be in their interest or when it is in the interest of some religious or political ideology or cause they believe in or support.

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{1} The philosophy is described in Myatt's *The Numinous Way of Pathei-Mathos*, seventh edition, 2022, https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2022/10/numinous-way-pathei-mathos-v7.pdf

{2} qv. Cicero, De Officiis, Liber Primus, 142,

> Haec autem scientia continentur ea, quam Graeci εὐταξίαν nominant, non hanc, quam interpretamur modestiam, quo in verbo modus inest, sed illa est εὐταξία, in qua intellegitur ordinis conservatio
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> Those two qualities are evident in that way described by the Greeks as εὐταξίαν although what is meant by εὐταξία is not what we mean by the moderation of the moderate, but rather what we consider is restrained behaviour.
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> Translated by David Myatt, *An Appreciation of The Numinous*, in *The Numinous Way of Pathei-Mathos*, seventh edition, 2022, https://davidmyatt.files.wordpress.com/2022/10/numinous-way-pathei-mathos-v7.pdf

{3} CIA archive: https://www.cia.gov/library/abbottabad-compound. The copy is at http://tinyurl.com/22zb4389

The original is archived at: https://web.archive.org/web/20080611081331/http://www.davidmyatt.info/significance_taliban.html

{4} Mark Weitzmann, *Anti-Semitism and Terrorism*, in Dienel, Hans-Liudger (editor), *Terrorism and the Internet: Threats, Target Groups, Deradicalisation Strategies*. NATO Science for Peace and Security Series, vol. 67. IOS Press, 2010. pp.16-17.

{5} Daniel Koehler, *From Traitor to Zealot: Exploring the Phenomenon of Side-Switching in Extremism and Terrorism*, Cambridge University Press, 2021. p.161

{6} One of Myatt's posts is archived at https://web.archive.org/web/20101219012908/http://forums.islamicawakening.com/f18/questions-ibn-myatt-1858/index2.html#post9375

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